



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: October 4, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution approving the application for grant funds for the California River Parkway Grant Program under the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50).**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving the application for grant funds for the California River Parkway Grant Program under the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50).

Background: The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) authorized \$100 million for the Acquisition, Restoration, Protection and Development of River Parkways. The State of California Resources Agency is administering the California River Parkway Grant Program. The "Grant Guidelines" published in July 2006 require that applicants submit an Authorizing Resolution from the applicant's governing body. Applications for the second round of funding are due October 17, 2006. MRCA staff will be submitting applications for a selection of the projects described below, as time permits.

Bell Creek Riverfront Natural Park: This project will be developed on a 15,000 square-foot lot along the southern side of Bell Creek channel just west of its confluence with Chatsworth Creek. The lot is a dedication/donation from an adjoining 19-unit development approved by the City of Los Angeles approximately one year ago. Public access will be via Sale Avenue. The larger lot to be developed is a winter stopping ground for Canadian Geese. The park will provide both wildlife habitat and a nature trail, and will ultimately be a stop on the future Bell Creek Trail on the Los Angeles County Flood Control Right-of-way.

This project was submitted for funding in 2005. Resources Agency staff have discussed last year's proposal with MRCA staff and identified weaknesses in that

proposal. The project appears to be competitive and staff will be revising last year's proposal accordingly.

Ballona Creek Bike Trail: This project would be a refurbishment of the Ballona Creek Bike Trail, including new striping, fence replacement and standardization, signage, and improvements to trail entrances. The Bike Trail has not been significantly improved since it was created over 20 years ago. The project could also implement a coordinated interpretive plan for educational displays along the trail, related to the different ecosystems and habitat types that one experiences along the trail.

Pacoima Wash Trail and Parks: An application for this project would complement the MRCA's 8th Street park project that is currently in design, and would tie in to the Pacoima Wash Mountain Bikeway project that has received federal funding. The City of San Fernando is planning to submit an application for park improvements on a wash-adjacent property at 1st Street, and an MRCA application would also be coordinated with that project. The Bikeway is planned to begin at an existing bike trail in San Fernando, would reach the wash at the 1st Street property, and would then travel upstream to terminate at Foothill Boulevard adjacent to the 8th Street property.